

Special Report Brief

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IARCA Outcome Measures Project: 15 Years of Outcomes Data for Children in Out-of-Home Care

For 15 years, member agencies of the Indiana Association of Resources and Child Advocacy (IARCA) have worked collectively to provide outcome data for the thousands of children they serve. We note that IARCA was previously the Indiana Association of Residential Child Care Agencies and also did business as IARCCA, an Association of Children & Family Services, over the years covered in this report. The IARCA Outcome Measures Project emerged from the efforts of a group of agency volunteers whose goals were to develop outcome measures that would:

- Highlight the needs of Indiana's children and families referred for services.
- Improve programs in response to an individual agency's results at discharge and follow-up.
- Allow for benchmarking of performance with an aggregate of the data by program type.
- Provide a better understanding of the broader issues of children's services to strengthen advocacy efforts on behalf of children and families.

In this Special Report Brief, IARCA's external evaluators present information for three program types across 15 years of data collection. Many practice implications have resulted from 15 years of data collection. Significant among them are:

- **Child welfare services work!** The vast majority of children using these services show measureable improvement in education and employment and a reduction in problem behavior, court involvement, and subsequent abuse. **Results measured at follow-up demonstrate that these improvements are sustained for months post-discharge.**
- Children have experienced serious trauma prior to entering services. These include neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and exposure to domestic violence. Yet, despite these difficulties, **the majority of children and families do succeed.**
- This Special Report Brief includes data for **52,766 children who were assessed at intake** over the past 15 years. The most frequently reported risk factors were parental substance abuse, child neglect, witnessing domestic violence, parent incarceration, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and being from a single parent family.
- **47,392 children were assessed at discharge.** Depending on the program type from which they were discharged: 62% - 87% had a positive educational outcome; 55% - 80% went to a less restrictive environment; and 35% to 68% had achieved their permanency goal.
- **24,852 children were assessed at follow-up.** Depending on the program type from which they were discharged: 71% - 97% had a positive educational outcome at follow-up; 91% - 100% had no new child abuse reported; and 52% - 98% had no court involvement due to new offenses.

We are pleased to report that with the right services at the right time, children and their families can succeed. IARCA and its member agencies continue to evaluate outcomes to both illustrate successes and learn more about how services can be improved. This Special Report Brief both shows success and points out the need for additional work. We hope that you, the reader, will find this Special Report Brief to be interesting and useful to your work as well.

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Fifteen years of evaluating outcomes data: Perspectives from the external evaluators

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Overview

In 1995, IARCA, the Indiana Association of Resources and Child Advocacy¹, responded to a request to demonstrate accountability by creating an outcomes monitoring project that measured effectiveness of programs and services provided by its member agencies. After two and one-half years of development, which included obtaining input from stakeholder focus groups, operationalizing definitions, identifying instruments, and piloting the procedures, the outcome project was initiated with member agencies in 1998. The goal of the IARCA Outcome Measures Project (*IOMP*) has been to measure and monitor outcomes for youth placed in the different care settings across Indiana that are provided by IARCA member agencies.

In 2012, the *IOMP* completed its fifteenth year of data collection, making it one of the longest continually running projects examining outcomes for youth across the nation. Across the past 15 years, 131 different IARCA member agencies have participated in the *IOMP* by providing data on the youth in their care and 28 have participated the entire time². Member agencies have also participated in the overall monitoring of this project by dedicating agency staff to be part of the volunteer Outcome Committee, which has met monthly since the beginning of this project³.

External evaluators contracted by IARCA have examined the data annually to provide an outside view of what the results may suggest⁴. Having

information on youth and families served across the past 15 years has allowed for continued analyses of the characteristics of youth placed into care, outcomes for youth when they are discharged from care, and several months past discharge.

A series of Special Report Briefs have been published by IARCA in the past decade examining various factors that impact outcomes for youth and families in care. These have included an examination of CHINS vs. delinquency; ethnic disproportionality in placement and outcome disparity; parental incarceration; youth discharged into a permanency placement, and an examination of risk and protective factors related to placement and functional outcomes.

Which youth were examined?

Outcome data from the first 15 years of the *IOMP* (1998-2012) were examined for this report. Specifically, data provided in the Annual Reports⁵ were examined for youth admitted into three of the programs monitored by the *IOMP* – Residential Care (RC), Foster Care (FC) and Transitional Living (TL). These programs were three of the original programs examined 15 years ago, and thus have data across the time span of the *IOMP*.

Information collected on youth at entry into care (Intake), at departure from care (Discharge) and after time has passed (Follow-up I occurs at 6-months after discharge for RC and FC, 3-months after discharge for TL) across the 15 years will be presented (total sample size of 125,010). The number of youth admitted into care (n = 52,766), discharged from care (47,392) and followed post-discharge (n = 24,852) in each program type at

⁵ Annual reports from 1998 forward can be obtained from IARCA.

¹ Formerly IARCCA, an Association of Children and Family Services.

² A list of agencies participating between 1998 and 2012 is provided on pages 11-12 of this Special Report Brief.

³ A list of members of the Outcome Committee, from its inception in 1996 through 2012 is provided on pages 12-13.

⁴ A list of External Evaluators is provided on page 13.

these three points is summarized across the 15 years and listed below in Figure 1.⁶

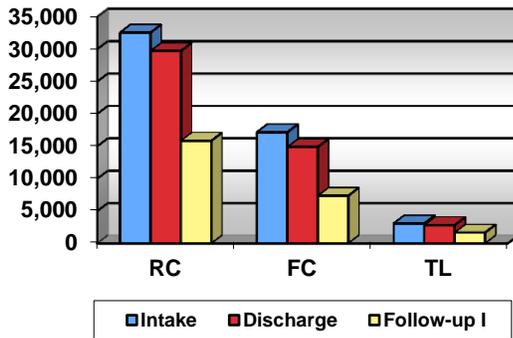


Figure 1. Number of cases collected per program type, 1998-2012.

What was examined?

Specific data examined for this Special Report Brief included data gathered at Intake, Discharge and Follow-up I:

Intake

- Demographic factors (gender, ethnicity & age)
- Maltreatment factors (known / suspected: neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse & witness to domestic violence)
- Child risk factors (delinquency adjudication, CHINS status, special education placement, psychotropic medication & number of prior out-of-home placements)
- Parent risk factors (single parent family, known / suspected substance abuse, psychiatric diagnosis, incarceration history, & parental rights terminated)

Discharge

- Functional outcomes (education & employment)
- Placement outcomes (length of stay, placement restrictiveness at discharge, nature of discharge, & achievement of permanency plan)

⁶ At intake, the number of youth reported was 32,537 for RC, 17,157 for FC, and 3,072 for TL. At discharge, there were 29,699 for RC, 14,879 for FC, and 2,814 for TL. Follow-up I included 15,841 for RC, 7,344 for FC, and 1,667 for TL. A second follow-up period was added in recent years. However, this is not included for this Special Report Brief, as it is not available across most years of the outcome project.

Follow-up⁷

- Functional outcomes (education, employment, subsequent abuse, & subsequent court involvement)

How were the analyses conducted?

For this Special Report Brief, data were gathered from the analyses provided in the first fifteen Annual Reports. These Annual Reports represent the benchmark data from the *IOMP* for calendar years 1998 through 2012. The information presented in this Special Report Brief is reported in terms of the range of scores noted across the 15 years. While it may be helpful to examine the data in terms of trends observed in the data, we chose to refrain from discussing trends as much as possible. This is due in part to the difficulty in determining whether variations in the data across the years reflect actual trends or if they are related to other factors. For example, greater variation in the range of scores may be seen when the sample sizes are smaller. One instance of this is observed in the employment outcome for youth in transitional living, where the total number of discharged youth is small across the years of the *IOMP*. Differences could also be due to those IARCA member agencies that participated in any given year. That is, differences in gender for youth in residential care could be related to the placement options / available beds for the male and female youth served by participating agencies in any given year, but not in another year.

What has been found? Youth entering care⁸

Gender

In examining gender for the three program types across the years, it appears that differences are

⁷ Caution should be used in interpreting the results from follow-up data, as this was reported only for youth who could be contacted.

⁸ Data from the Child Risk Factor Survey (i.e., demographic, maltreatment, child risk & parent risk) were provided in the Annual Reports for 1999 through 2012.

representative of random fluctuations. In RC the proportion of male youth has ranged from 50.5% to 66.0% (see Figure 2), in FC from 48.9% to 52.3%, and in TL from 37.1% to 58.8 percent.

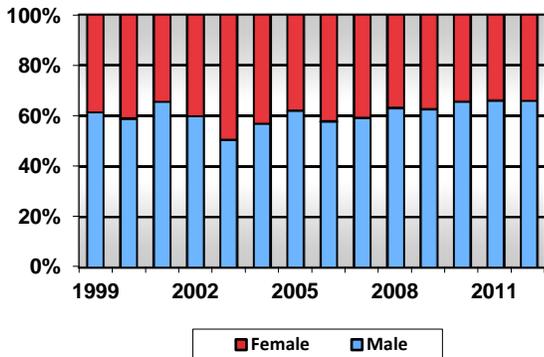


Figure 2. Gender of Youth in RC Programs, 1999-2012.

Ethnicity

The proportion of youth admitted to RC programs whose ethnicity was identified as African American ranged from 19.7% to 25.3%. The percentage of Caucasian youth ranged from 61.7% to 71.4%, while the percent of youth identified as Latino ranged from 2.3% to 4.0% and those identified as other ethnicities ranged from 4.3% to 10.0%.

For FC programs, the proportion of youth admitted whose ethnicity was African American ranged from 24.7% to 35.2%. Figure 3 presents the percent of African American youth who were admitted into FC programs from 1999 through 2012. The percentage of Caucasian youth ranged from 50.2% to 63.5%, while the percent of youth identified as Latino ranged from 1.2% to 6.5% and other ethnicities ranged from 6.3% to 9.7%.

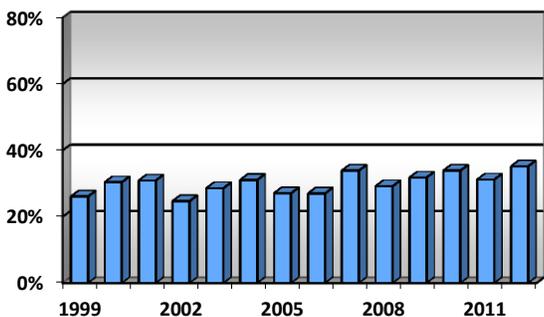


Figure 3. Percent of African American youth entering FC programs, 1999-2012.

In TL programs, the proportion of African American youth ranged from 22.7% to 43.3%. In TL programs, the percentage of youth who were Caucasian ranged from 47.1% to 68.5%, Latino from 1.3% to 5.5% and other ethnicities from 2.9% to 9.9%.

Age

The average age of youth entering RC programs has ranged from 14.1 to 15.0 years. In FC programs, the average age ranged between 8.0 and 10.9 years. For TL programs, the average age has ranged between 16.8 and 17.3 years. Examination of the data shows that over the past 5 years youth entering RC programs were on average at the higher end of the range (See Figure 4).

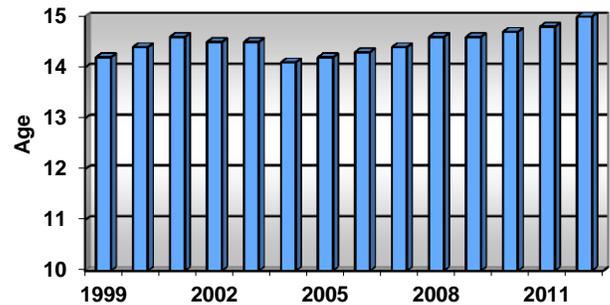


Figure 4. Mean age of youth entering RC programs, 1999-2012.

Neglect

Rates of neglect for youth in RC ranged from 26.2% to 33.7%. Neglect rates were highest for youth in FC, ranging from 61.5% to 76.4% (See Figure 5). For youth entering TL programs, the rates ranged from 30.6% to 51.8%.

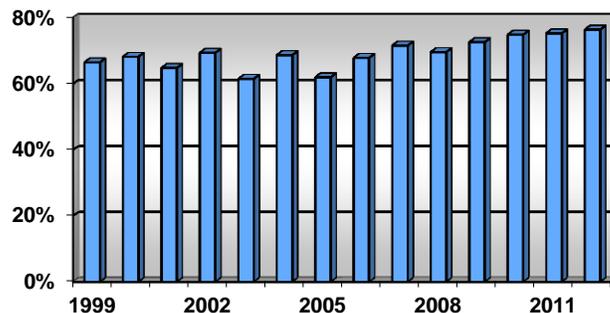


Figure 5. Percent of youth entering FC programs with suspected / known history of neglect, 1999-2012.

The rates of neglect generally appear to be rising across the past fifteen years for youth in FC, particularly since 2006. This risk factor should be monitored closely by agencies working with FC youth.

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse rates were generally evenly distributed across the three programs, with rates ranging from 11.1% to 35.4%. Greater variability in rates was noted in TL programs (see Figure 6), where sample sizes were generally smaller. However, RC programs reported rates that were more consistent and higher (ranging from 28.5% to 33.1%) than youth in FC and TL programs.

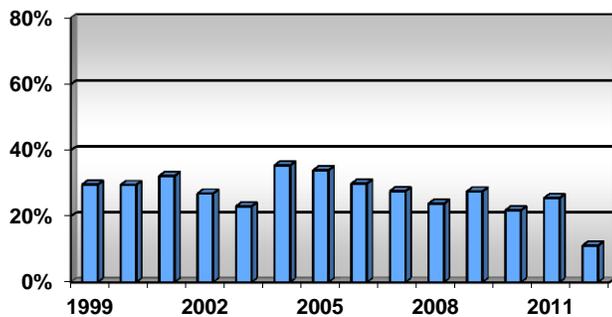


Figure 6. Percent of youth entering TL programs with suspected / known history of physical abuse, 1999-2012.

Sexual Abuse

Rates of youth entering care with histories of suspected or known sexual abuse ranged from 25.4% to 30.1% for RC programs. For youth in FC programs, rates ranged from 13.3% to 29.2%, while in TL, rates ranged from 11.1% to 32.4%. Figure 7 shows the percent of youth entering RC programs with suspected / known sexual abuse histories.

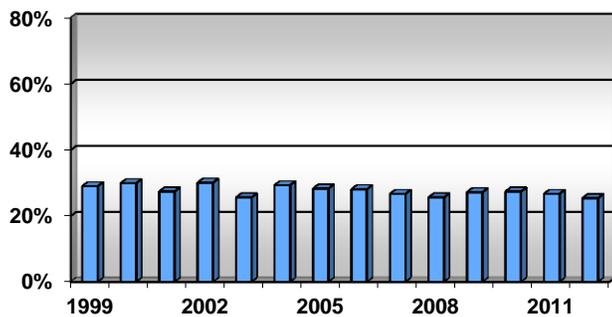


Figure 7. Percent of youth entering RC programs with suspected / known history of sexual abuse, 1999-2012.

Witness to Domestic Violence

For youth in RC programs, rates of witnessing domestic violence ranged from 32.6% to 41.7%. For those placed in FC programs, rates ranged from 22.5% to 35.0%, while for youth in TL programs from 17.8% to 45.0% (see Figure 8). For youth in FC programs, a possible trend for youth witnessing less domestic violence may be present. This may, however, also be related to youth being younger as they enter FC programs.

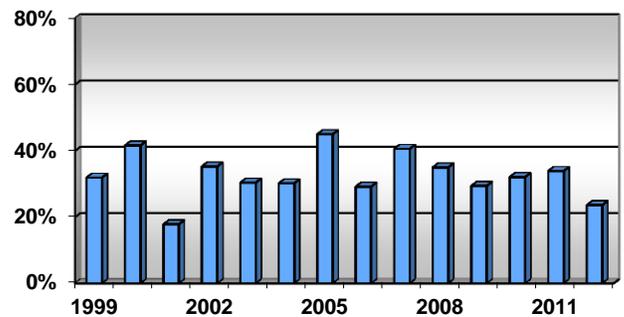


Figure 8. Percent of youth entering TL programs with suspected / known history of witnessing domestic violence, 1999-2012.

Delinquency & CHINS

The proportion of youth entering RC programs who were adjudicated delinquent ranged from 41.8% to 63.6%. For FC programs, the percentages were much lower, ranging from 3.8% to 18.9%. The proportion of youth in TL programs adjudicated delinquent ranged from 25.6% to 45.6%.

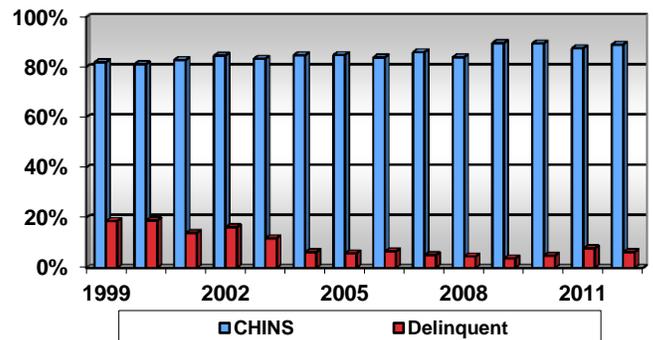


Figure 9. Percent of youth entering FC programs who were classified CHINS and/or adjudicated delinquent, 1999-2012.

With respect to youth classified as CHINS (Children in Need of Services), the percentages for

RC programs ranged from 36.3% to 42.2%. Not surprisingly, the rates of youth placed in FC who were classified as CHINS ranged from 81.1% to 89.6%. Youth in TL programs showed CHINS classification rates ranging from 50.9% to 66.1%.

Figure 9 shows the percentage of FC youth who were classified as CHINS and / or were adjudicated delinquent when admitted into care. As shown in Figure 9, a majority of youth entering FC programs have been classified as CHINS, and a very small percentage were adjudicated delinquent.

Special Education Placement

For youth in RC programs, rates of special education placement ranged from 36.2% to 50.3% (See Figure 10). These rates are much higher than the proportion of youth from the general population who are placed into special education in Indiana, where placement rates have most recently been identified at 15.2% (US Department of Education, 2012). Youth in FC and TL programs had somewhat lower rates of placement into special education (16.9% to 34.5%); however, these rates are also higher than that found in Indiana's general population.

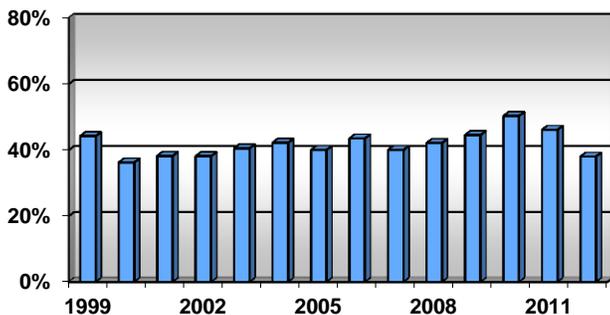


Figure 10. Percent of youth entering RC programs with history of special education placement, 1999-2012.

Psychotropic Medication

Psychotropic medication use for youth entering RC programs ranged from 47.7% to 63.9%. In FC programs rates were 20.3% to 41.3%, and in TL 27.4% to 43.4%. Figure 11 shows the percent of youth entering RC programs who were taking psychotropic medication at the time of admission.

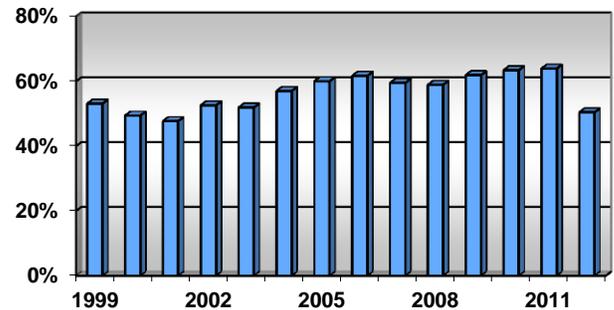


Figure 11. Percent of youth entering RC programs prescribed psychotropic medication, 1999-2012.

Number of Previous Placements

For youth entering RC programs, the average number of prior placements ranged from 2.6 to 3.3. The average number of previous placements for youth entering FC programs ranged from 1.6 to 2.6, while youth in TL programs ranged from 2.9 to 4.0. In the past four years in TL programs, the average number of previous placements appear to be at the lower end of the range (see Figure 12).

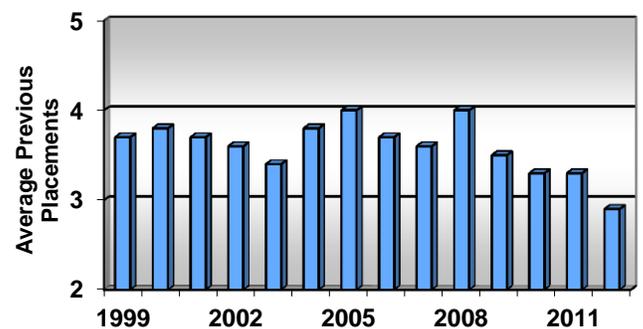


Figure 12. Average number of prior placements for youth entering TL programs, 1999-2012.

Single Parent Household

Between 55.6% and 61.4% of youth entering RC programs were from single parent families. For FC programs, 47.7% to 68.6% of youth entering care came from a single parent household (see Figure 13). In recent years, the percent of youth entering FC who were in a single parent household has dropped. This should continue to be monitored. In TL, percentage rates ranged from 57.5% to 72.3%.

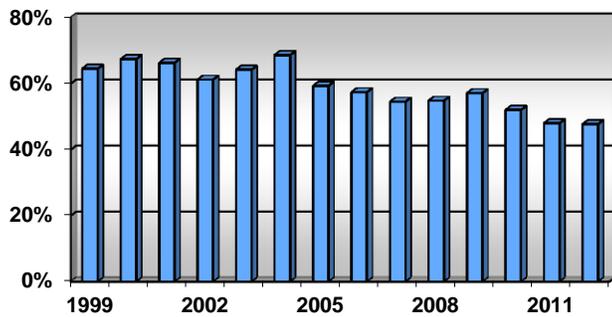


Figure 13. Percent of youth entering FC programs who were in single parent household, 1999-2012.

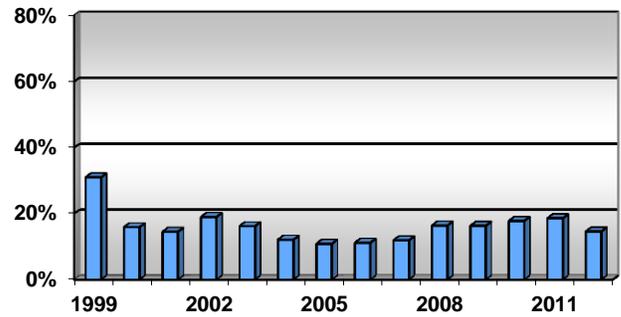


Figure 15. Percent of FC youth with history of parental psychiatric diagnosis, 1999-2012.

Parent Substance Use

Around half of all youth in RC programs had a parent with known substance abuse issues, with percentages ranging from 48.2% to 58.6%. For FC programs, parental substance abuse was known to be of concern for between 38.1% and 60.1% of youth entering care. Having at least one parent abusing substances was identified in around half of the youth entering TL programs, with percentages ranging from 44.5% to 68.2% (see Figure 14).

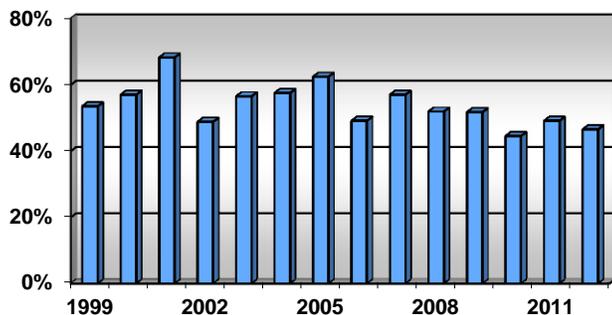


Figure 14. Percent of youth entering TL programs with known parent substance abuse, 1999-2012.

Parent Incarceration

The percent of youth entering RC programs with a parent having a known or suspected history of incarceration ranged from 27.8% to 44.3%. Parental incarceration rates for FC youth ranged from 26.9% to 39.8%. For TL programs, the annual rates of youth with known parental incarceration history ranged from 27.4% to 45.9% (See Figure 16).

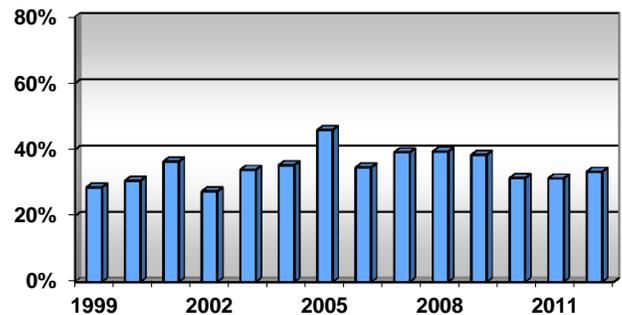


Figure 16. Percent of TL youth with history of parental incarceration, 1999-2012.

Parent Psychiatric Diagnosis

The percent of youth entering RC programs with a parent having a known or suspected psychiatric diagnosis ranged from 16.7% to 28.1%. Rates of parental psychiatric diagnoses for youth entering FC programs ranged from 10.9% to 31.0% (see Figure 15). For those youth entering TL programs, known or suspected rates of parental psychiatric diagnosis ranged from 9.9% to 26.9%.

Termination of Parental Rights

Termination of the parent's rights from one or both parents occurred for 15.8% to 24.8% of youth in RC programs across the 15 years (see Figure 17). The termination of parental rights for one or both parents occurred for FC youth from 13.1% to 21.8%. For youth entering TL programs, termination of rights for one or both parents occurred from 15.8% to 24.8%. The rates for all three program types (RC, FC and TL) have remained relatively constant across the fifteen years.

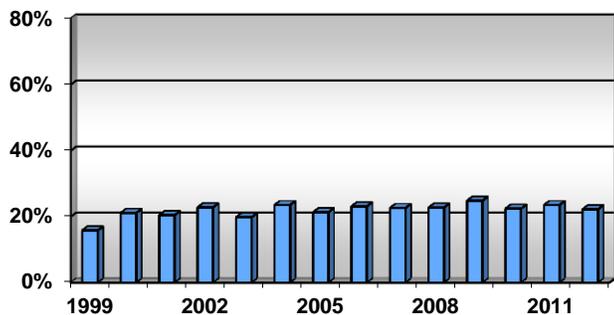


Figure 17. Percent of youth entering RC programs with parental rights terminated, 1999-2012.

What has been found?

Outcomes at discharge & follow-up I

Education

Education at discharge was positive if two of the three areas assessed (attendance, behavior, & academic performance) are positive. Education at follow-up I was positive if the youth was attending school or had graduated. This measure is not reported for children under school age. With respect to education, youth in RC had generally positive educational outcomes, with success rates ranging from 82.2% to 86.9% at discharge and 84.9% to 91.5% at six months after discharge (see Figure 18). Educational outcomes for youth in FC programs ranged from 74.6% to 82.9% of youth having positive outcomes at discharge and 87.5% to 97.1% with positive outcomes at six months post-discharge follow-up. For youth in TL programs, positive educational outcomes ranged between 61.8% and 89.1% at discharge to between 70.9% and 90.1% at three months after discharge.

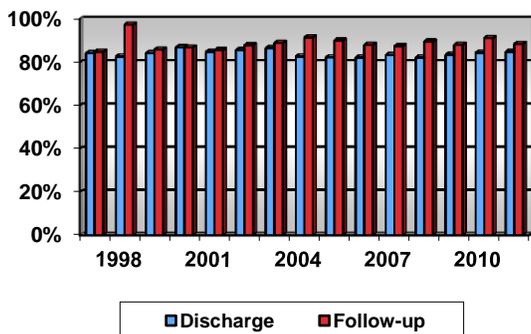


Figure 18. Percent of RC youth with positive education outcome at discharge & follow-up I, 1998-2012

Employment

Across the 15 years, substantive variability existed in the number and proportion of youth old enough to be employed. For youth in RC programs, between 11.6% and 25.0% of youth aged 16 or older were employed at discharge, and between 17.0% and 37.1% employed six months after discharge. For FC youth age 16 or older, between 23.8% and 47.8% were employed at discharge, and between 21.2% and 54.3% were employed six months after discharge. For TL youth, where most youth are age 16 or older, between 36.1% and 65.2% were employed at discharge, while 33.3% to 63.4% were employed three months after discharge (see Figure 19). Of note, employment rates across all three program types have been lower at discharge and follow-up during the past five years, in line with the downturn in the state economy.

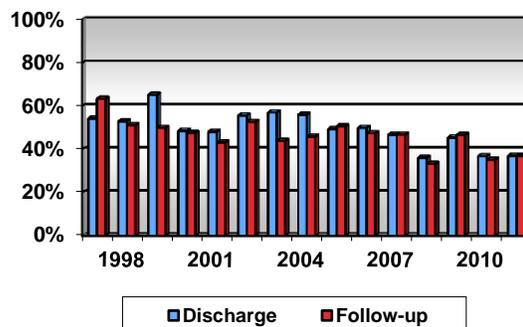


Figure 19. Percent of TL youth who were employed at discharge & follow-up I, 1998-2012.

Subsequent Abuse

Across all three program types, there were very few youth with new reports of abuse. Over the fifteen years, the percentages of youth with no new reported abuse for the three program types ranged from between 91.2% and 100%. Figure 20 presents the subsequent non-abuse rates for FC youth.

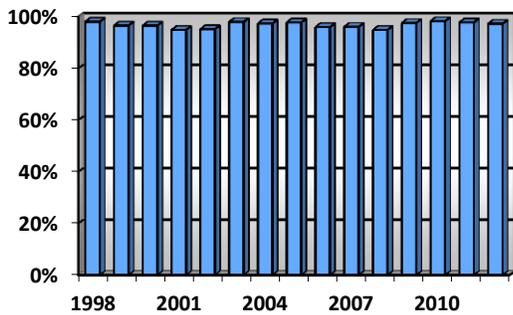


Figure 20. Percent of FC youth with no new child abuse reported, 1999-2012.

Subsequent Court Involvement

With respect to the subsequent court involvement, between 71.9% and 80.9% of youth in RC programs had no new court involvement six months after being discharged⁹. Similarly, between 83.6% and 96.5% of FC youth had no new court involvement at follow-up. For TL programs, however, youth were more frequently involved with the courts due to new infractions; where between 51.5% and 97.7% of the youth did not come before a judge. Figure 21 illustrates the proportion of youth from RC programs who had no subsequent court involvement.

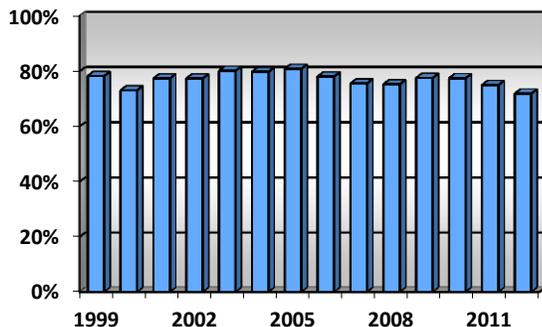


Figure 21. Percent of RC youth with no subsequent court involvement, 1998-2012.

The differences in subsequent court involvement across these three programs could be related to other factors – two of which are the age of the youth and the proportion of youth who were adjudicated delinquent when they entered care. That is, programs where younger youth are placed (FC and

⁹ There was no reported percent of youth in RC with subsequent court involvement reported for 1998.

RC) may have lower delinquency rates due to age – a factor that is likely co-related to court recidivism. Concomitantly, programs with older youth (TL) where the youth had higher rates of delinquency adjudication were also programs with youth who were more likely to encounter legal problems post-discharge.

Length of Placement

Figure 22 presents the Median length of stay¹⁰ for youth discharged from RC programs, and ranged from approximately 5 months (158 days) to 7 months, 2 weeks (225 days). For youth in FC care programs, the Median length ranged from 6 months, 2 weeks (201 days) to 10 months (310.5 days). Youth in TL programs stayed in their programs for a median length of 4 months, 2 weeks (140 days) to 6 months, 3 weeks (204 days). Figure 20 presents the Median length of stay for youth who were discharged from TL programs from 1998 through 2012.

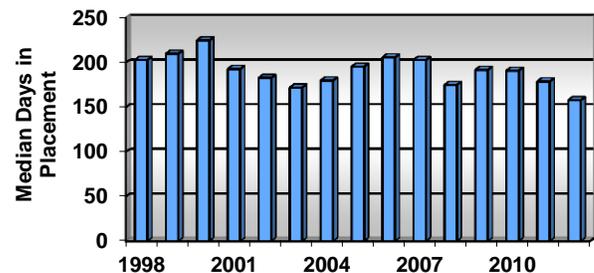


Figure 22. Median length of placement for youth discharged from RC programs, 1999-2012.

Restrictiveness of Discharge Placement

With regard to restrictiveness of placement at discharge, youth in RC were placed in a less restrictive placement between 75.0% and 79.8% of the time. Youth in FC and TL were less often sent to a setting with lower restrictiveness, as the percentages ranged from 59.2% to 77.4% in FC and from 55.4% to 76.0% in TL. Figure 23 presents the percent of youth who were placed into less restrictive placements from FC across the 15 years.

¹⁰ The Median (rather than the mean, or average) is a more appropriate measure of central tendency for the length of a youth's placement.

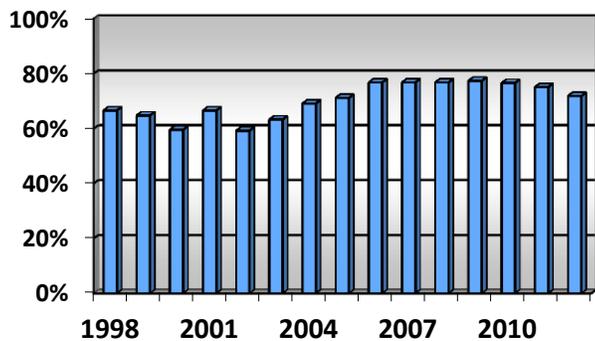


Figure 23. Percent of FC youth who were discharged into less restrictive settings, 1998-2012.

Across all three program types, youth were sent to a more restrictive setting between 8.7% and 25.2% of the time. Youth in TL programs consistently demonstrated a higher proportion of youth who ran away from their placement (from 4.6% to 20.9%), when compared to RC and TL.

Nature of Discharge

With respect to the nature of discharge for youth from RC, FC and TL programs, the proportion of youth who were discharged according to their plan of treatment was generally consistent with the proportion of youth discharged to less restrictive placement settings. Youth in RC programs were planfully discharged between 64.8% and 75.7% of the time. For those youth discharged from FC programs, they were planfully discharged from 56.7% to 75.0% of the time. Youth were planfully discharged from TL programs from 43.9% to 68.6% of the time.

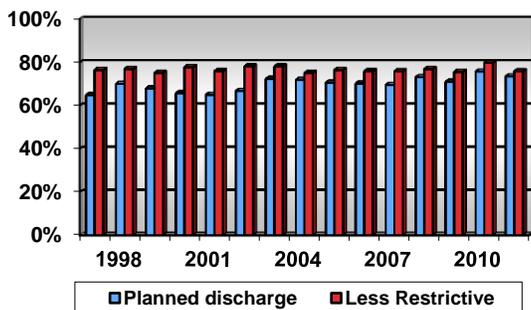


Figure 24. Percent of RC youth who were planfully discharged and placed in less restrictive setting, 1998-2012

Figure 24 highlights the percent of youth from RC programs who were planfully discharged, and the percent of youth who were placed into a less restrictive setting at discharge.

In addition to measuring planful discharges, three other alternatives were measured: 1) the referral source removed the child; 2) the providing agency removed the child (administrative discharge); 3) the youth self-discharged (runaway). The proportion of youth removed by the referral source has remained relatively constant across the fifteen years of the *IOMP*, with the percent of youth removed by the placing source prior to program completion ranging from 3.9% to 14.1% across the three program types.

For youth in RC programs, administrative discharges were fairly constant from 1998 through 2007, ranging between 11.9% and 17.9%. For FC programs, the proportion of youth administratively discharged has generally decreased across the fifteen years, ranging from 14.3% to 27.7%. For TL programs, the proportion of youth administratively discharged was more scattered across the years, ranging from a low of 13.7% to a high of 28.5% (see Figure 25).

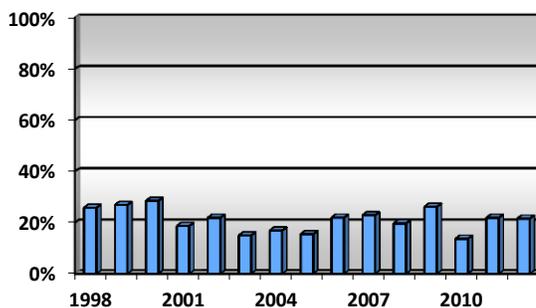


Figure 25. Percent of youth administratively discharged from TL programs, 1998-2012.

Permanency Plan Achieved

For many youth in RC, FC and TL, permanency plans have been established to guide an overall goal towards a permanent home (e.g., reunification, adoption, or emancipation). In more recent years, concurrent plans have also been incorporated into a youth's permanency planning. Achievement of the

permanency or concurrent goal upon discharge from placement is another measure of a program's effectiveness.

For youth placed in RC programs with a permanency or concurrent plan, between 37.3% and 51.6% had achieved their plan when discharged. For those youth in FC programs, between 51.4% and 68.4% achieved their permanency or concurrent goal at discharge (see Figure 26). TL youth being discharged achieved their permanency or concurrent plan between 35.0% and 63.9% of the time across the fifteen years of data collection.

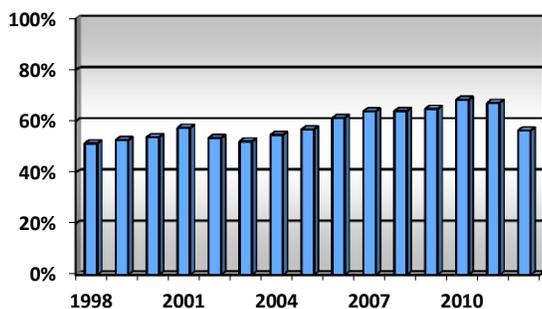


Figure 26. Percent of FC youth who achieved permanency or concurrent plan upon discharge, 1998-2012.

Summary

The present Special Report Brief examined information collected on youth placed with agencies who participated in the *IOMP* between 1998 and 2012. In particular, RC, FC, and TL programs offered at these participating agencies were investigated. This exploration also occurred across three different time points; at entry-into care, at discharge from care and at the initial follow-up after being discharged. The work examined socio-demographic characteristics of youth, risk factors identified in youth and their families, functional outcomes and placement outcomes.

From this retrospective analysis for the 15-year time frame, most youth placed in RC, FC and TL programs were likely to enter care with risks. In addition, youth entering one type of program may look somewhat differently than those entering another type of program. For example, youth placed into TL programs were more likely to be female and

older, while those in RC programs were more likely to be male and mid-range in age, and those in FC were much younger and generally equally split between genders. As a general rule, all programs examined had a disproportionate number of minority youth, particularly African American youth. Those in RC were more likely to be adjudicated delinquent, have histories of suspected or known physical abuse, were placed into special education programs, and prescribed psychotropic medication. Youth placed in FC programs, on the other hand, were more likely referred from child welfare (classified as CHINS) and had a history of neglect. Further, youth placed into TL programs tended to have been in a greater number of previous placements and were more likely to have come from a single parent household.

With respect to outcomes for youth placed into RC, FC and TL, all three programs were likely to return youth to a similar or less restrictive placement following care. Youth were also planfully discharged from their programs at a rate similar to their movement into a less restrictive placement. While approximately 25% of youth in FC programs were administratively discharged between 1998 and 2002, this rate has decreased to below 20% for the last eight years examined (2005 through 2012). Youth in all three programs were also likely to have reported positive educational outcomes at discharge, as determined by school attendance, appropriate behavior and/or achievement. In addition, youth contacted at follow-up maintained positive educational outcomes by either attending school or having graduated. Also at follow-up, youth in all three program types had low rates of subsequent reports of being subject to additional abuse or being returned to court for a new infraction.

References¹¹

U.S. Department of Education. (2012). Indiana: Identification of children with disabilities: Student enrollment, ages 6 through 21. Retrieved March 29, 2014, from <http://www2.ed.gov/fund/data/report/idea/partbspap/2013/in-acc-stateprofile-11-12.pdf>.

¹¹ Annual Reports, Special Reports, and Special Report Briefs are available from IARCA, www.evaluateoutcomesnow.org.

Participating Agencies, 1998-2012
(**Blue Font** represents agency participation for all 15 years)

Ada's Place
Adult & Child Mental Health Center
Associates in Clinical Psychology
Anchor Families
Aspire Indiana
Baptist Children's Home
Bashor Children's Home
Benchmark Family Services
Behavioral Health Care of Northern Indiana
Bethany Christian Services
Blue River Services
Branches of Life Therapeutic Foster Care
Cambridge House, Inc.
Camelot Community Care
Campagna Academy
Carmelite Home for Boys
Cary Home for Children
Caring Connections for Family and Children
Cass County Children's Home & Youth Services
Centerstone / Foster Care Select
Charter-Jefferson Behavioral Health System
Childplace
Children and Family Services Corp.
Children's Bureau, Inc.
The Children's Campus, Inc.
The Children's Campus at Mayflower
Children's Sanctuary
Christian Haven
Christian Youth Home
Clark County Youth Shelter
Columbus Behavioral Center for Children & Adolescents
Crisis Center
Crossroad
Damar Services, Inc.
Debra Corn Agency
Dockside Services
Edgewater Systems for Balanced Living
Fairbanks
Family Service Society
Family & Youth Service Bureau
First Place Children's Home
Floyd County Youth Service Bureau
Four County Counseling
Fresh Start Home
Friendship Home
Gateway Woods
George Jr. Republic
Gibault Children's Services
Graham Shelter
Group Homes for Children
Henrico, Inc. – Bennett House and Help House
Henry County Youth Center
Hillcrest-Washington Youth Home
Indiana MENTOR
Indiana United Methodist Children's Home

Interact Family Services
Jackson County Juvenile Home
Kids Count
KidsPeace National Centers for Kids in Crisis
Kingsfield Children's Home
Kokomo Academy
Kosciusko County Shelter Care
Ladoga Academy
Life Choices Maternity and Youth Home, Inc.
Lifeline Youth and Family Services, Inc.
Lutheran Child & Family Services
Madison Center for Children
Madison County Youth Center
Maple Manor
Marion Home
Meridian Services Corp.
Middle Passage
Midwest Center for Youth and Families
Midwest Institute, Inc.
Mirage Retreat
Morningstar Girls' Home
National Youth Advocate Program
New Frontiers, Inc.
New Hope Services
New Horizons Youth Ministries
Niequist
N.O.A.H., Inc.
Noah's Ark Children's Village
Oaklawn
Open Arms Christian Home
Open Arms Family & Educational Services
Options Treatment Center
Paddock View Residential Center
Park Center
Pathways Youth Shelter & Family Services
PEJUS
The Phoenix Institute
Prep Program
Promising Futures / Hamilton Centers Youth Service Bureau
Providence Self-Sufficiency Ministries
Regional Youth Services, Inc.
ResCare Residential Program
Resolute Treatment Facility
Resource, Inc.
Sequel TSI of Indiana
Shelby County Youth Shelter
Shults Lewis Child & Family Services
Southwest Indiana Regional Youth Villages
Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth
St. Elizabeth's / Coleman
St. Francis Center
St. John's Anderson Center
St. Joseph's Carmelite Home for Girls
St. Joseph's Home for Boys

Participating Agencies, 1998-2012
(**Blue Font** represents agency participation for all 15 years)

St. Monica Home
St. Vincent's Stress Center Extended Care Program
Success Group Home
TC Harris School / Indiana Developmental Training Center
Triple L Youth Center
United Methodist Youth Home
Valle Vista Health System
Vigo County Homes for Children
The Villages of Indiana
Wabash Valley Hospital
Wernle, Inc. Services for Children and Families

White's Residential and Family Services
Whitewater Valley Care Pavilion
Whittington Homes & Services
Willowglen Academy
Youth Encouragement Services
Youth Hope
Youth Opportunity Center
Youth Service Bureau of Delaware County, Inc.
Youth Services Bureau of Jay County
Youth Services Bureau of Monroe County
Youth Services Center of Allen County

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(**Blue Font** represents committee membership for all 15 years)

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Overview of this Special Report Brief

This Special Report Brief reviews the data for youth in residential care, foster care, and transitional living programs from the first 15 years of data collection for the *IOMP*. The Brief examines characteristics of children and their families when youth are placed into programs. Functional and placement outcomes at discharge and at follow-up are also examined. Although some trends in the data appear to be occurring, data for the majority of intake characteristics and outcome factors appear to be generally stable over time.

History of the IOMP

The IARCA Outcome Measures Project (i.e., the *IOMP*) has been monitoring outcomes for youth in social service programs and their families since 1998. Programs evaluated as part of this project

include: transitional / independent living, day treatment, home-based, shelter care, foster care, residential care programs utilizing public schools, residential care programs utilizing both public and on-grounds schools, residential locked- & staff-secure programs, psychiatric residential treatment facilities, crisis stabilization, and outpatient treatment programs.

The *IOMP* examines the clinical functioning of the youth and family when children enter and leave treatment. It also examines placement and functional outcomes, and gathers information on consumer satisfaction. Additional data is gathered, including social and demographic information, child- and parent-specific risk factors, and the services provided during care. Other Special Report Briefs and recent Annual Reports and Executive Summaries for youth in care can be obtained from www.evaluateoutcomesnow.org.